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# BACKGROUND NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE SUMMER ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP, 1 AUGUST 1993-31 JULY 1994

## INTRODUCTION

1. The present information note has been prepared as background for the summer organizational session of the Executive Board for the year 1 August 1993 to 31 July 1994. Under the Board's rules of procedure (E/ICEF/177/Rev.5, rule 12), the organizational session of the Board to elect officers for the Board year beginning 1 August shall take place following its regular Board session, and after the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council, which holds elections for new Board members. This year's summer organizational session is scheduled for 7 June 1993 at United Nations Headquarters.

2. It will also elect the representatives of the Board to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education (JCE) for the 1993-1995 biennium, as well as replacements on the UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP) for the remainder of the 1992-1994 biennium of those representatives whose countries retire from Executive Board membership, effective 31 July 1993. The provisional agenda for this meeting is contained in document E/ICEF/1993/L.14.

3. Participants at the organizational session will be members who will constitute the Executive Board as at 1 August. The term of office of the Board and committee chairmen is one year. Rule 12 of the rules of procedure (E/ICEF/177/Rev.5) states:

> "... The Chairman of the Board and the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Committee on Administration and Finance shall not, apart from exceptional cases as decided by the Board, be re-elected for a consecutive term. Other officers of the Board shall be eligible for re-election, taking into account the desirability of reasonable rotation."

### Composition

4. The nine officers of the Executive Board consist of the Chairman and the four Vice-Chairmen of the Board and the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance.

### Rotation of Board chairmanship

5. Executive Board decision 1992/7 stipulates that:

> "... in the election of the Chairman of the Executive Board, regard shall be had for the equitable geographical rotation of this office among the following regional groups: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States, with effect from the Board year commencing 1 August 1993."

Criteria

6. The only formal criteria for the election of officers of the Executive Board are found in the rules of procedure (see para. 3 above) and in Executive Board decision 1992/7 governing the chairmanship (see para. 5 above).

7. Over the years unwritten conventions concerning elections have developed, which are generally followed:

(a) The Chairman should be a person who has had experience in the work of the Board through prior service on the Bureau;

(b) Among the Board officers there should be reasonable balance between donor and recipient nations and among the five regional groups (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and others);

(c) When the Chairman is from a developing country, the First Vice-Chairman is usually from an industrialized country and vice versa. The same tradition applies for the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen of the committees;

(d) The Chairmen of the two committees usually consist of one from an industrialized country and one from a developing country;

(e) Permanent members of the Security Council do not serve as officers.

8. These conventions are regarded as Board traditions. In addition, three other factors concerning the composition of the Bureau are considered desirable: (a) that women be represented; (b) that some of the officers be based in New York; and (c) that the Nordic countries are usually represented to reflect the scale of their financial contributions.

Process

9. It is customary that the outgoing Bureau members, under the leadership of the Chairman, informally discuss the composition of the next Bureau with interested candidates and regional groups in order to facilitate a consensus.

## I. OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1 AUGUST 1992-31 JULY 1993

10. For the year ending 31 July 1993, the officers of the Executive Board, by name, are as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada)

First Vice-Chairman: Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal)

Second Vice-Chairman: Dr. Vaclav Vacek (Czech Republic)

Third Vice-Chairman: H.E. Dr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal)

Fourth Vice-Chairman: H.E. Dr. Lucille Mair (Jamaica)

## II. PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

11. The Programme Committee is constituted as a committee of the whole. For the year ending 31 July 1993, the Board elected H.E. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortés (Nicaragua) as Chairman of the Programme Committee and Dr. Syed Mohsin Ali (Pakistan) as Vice-Chairman*.

## III. COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

12. The Committee on Administration and Finance is constituted as a committee of the whole. For the year ending 31 July 1993, the Board elected Ms. Birte Poulsen (Denmark) as Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance and Miss Khadijatu Mansaray (Sierra Leone) as Vice-Chairman.

## IV. CRITERIA GOVERNING THE ELECTION OF UNICEF REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT COMMITTEES

13. The terms of reference of the composition of the UNESCO/UNICEF JCE were modelled after those of JCHP. These stipulate that UNICEF Board representatives on the Committee will include the chairmen of the Executive Board and the Programme Committee as ex officio members, four representatives elected in their personal capacity and two elected alternates. Elections for JCE were to be held in odd years, to alternate with those for JCHP in even years, based on past practice of a joint committee meeting being held only biennially.

14. However, JCE met twice in its first biennium (1989-1991) and JCHP met twice in its 1990-1992 biennium. Given the foregoing, and in light of the fact that the ex officio members will, of necessity, change annually, the officers of the Board expressed, during the 1991 regular Board session, their concern that a full complement of membership in such committees should be guaranteed to the extent possible.

15. Accordingly, in decision 1991/3, the Executive Board amended the criteria governing the election of UNICEF Board representatives on JCHP and on JCE as follows: "... (a) The number of elected alternates should be increased to four; (b) In electing its representatives to the joint committees, the Board should ensure the election of those who represent countries that will be on the Executive Board for at least two additional years".

16. There are no written rules governing the composition of the UNICEF delegation beyond the Board's decision that representatives may not serve for more than two terms consecutively, unless they become ex officio members. However, prevailing unwritten conventions developed over the years and generally followed stipulate that due regard should be given (a) to elect representatives who have experience in both the UNICEF Executive Board and in the areas of health or education, as appropriate; and (b) to ensure a balance between developing and industrialized countries. The Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board may undertake informal consultations prior to the organizational session in order to expedite consensus.

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* On the opening day of its 1993 regular session, the Executive Board elected Mr. Sher Afgan Khan (Pakistan) to replace Dr. Ali who was unable to undertake his responsibilities.

## V. UNESCO/UNICEF JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

17. The UNICEF Executive Board membership on JCE for the 1991-1993 biennium (1 August 1991-31 July 1993) is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman, Executive Board | |
| H.E. Miss Mira Seth (India) | Ex officio member (1991-1992) |
| Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada) | Ex officio member (1992-1993) |
| Chairman, Programme Committee | |
| Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada) | Ex officio member (1991-1992) |
| H.E. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortés (Nicaragua) | Ex officio member (1992-1993) |
| Dr. Maria Francisca Arias | Colombia |
| Mr. Mazharul Haq Siddiqui | Pakistan |
| Mr. Sheka Mansaray | Sierra Leone |
| Dr. Roger Iredale | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |

Alternates

| | |
|---|---|
| Prof. Ivan Chernozemski | Bulgaria |
| Mrs. Hirut Gebre-Egziabher | Ethiopia |
| Mr. Jong Moo Choi | Republic of Korea |
| Dr. Adriana Lissidini | Uruguay |

## VI. UNICEF/WHO JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

18. The UNICEF Executive Board membership on JCHP for the 1992-1994 biennium (term ending on 31 July 1994) is:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman, Executive Board | |
| Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada) | Ex officio member |
| Chairman, Programme Committee | |
| H.E. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortés (Nicaragua) | Ex officio member |
| Miss Samba Luisa Mbimbi | Angola |
| Dr. Audrey Manley | United States of America |
| Dr. Alfredo Toledo 1/ | Uruguay |
| Dr. Mohamed Abdulla Aidrous | Yemen |

Alternates

| | |
|---|---|
| Dr. Edmond Nzapa-Yeke | Central African Republic |
| Mr. Shaofu Yuan | China |
| Dr. Alvaro Aguilar Peralta | Costa Rica |
| Dr. Vaclav Vacek 2/ | Czech Republic |

## VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP, 1 AUGUST 1993-31 JULY 1994

19. At its resumed organizational session held on 29 April 1993, the Economic and Social Council elected the following members to the UNICEF Executive Board: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Finland, India*, Indonesia*, Lebanon, Romania, Suriname, Switzerland* and Turkey.

20. Outgoing members were: Czech Republic, Denmark, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka and Uruguay.

21. Taking into account the newly elected members, the composition of the Executive Board for the period 1 August 1993-31 July 1994 is as follows:

Term of office expiring on

| 31 July 1994 | 31 July 1995 | 31 July 1996 |
|---|---|---|
| Angola | Bulgaria | Burkina Faso |
| Australia | Canada | Ghana |
| Brazil | China | Finland |
| Central African Republic | Costa Rica | India* |
| Congo | Colombia | Indonesia* |
| Ethiopia | Germany | Lebanon |
| France | Mozambique | Romania |
| Italy | Nepal | Suriname |
| Jamaica | Netherlands | Switzerland* |
| Japan | Sweden | Turkey |
| Nicaragua | | |
| Norway | | |
| Pakistan | | |
| Republic of Korea | | |
| Russian Federation | | |
| Senegal | | |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | | |
| United Republic of Tanzania | | |
| United States of America | | |
| Yemen | | |
| Yugoslavia | | |

* Re-elected.

Notes

1/ Member to be replaced from Latin America and Caribbean group as Uruguay retired from Board membership.

2/ Alternate to be replaced from Eastern Europe group as Czech Republic retired from Board membership.

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